

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 1-33.

34. (New) A method for the treatment, alleviation and/or prevention of metabolic diseases or dysfunctions, including obesity, diabetes, and/or metabolic syndrome, as well as related disorders such as eating disorder, cachexia, hypertension, coronary heart disease, hypercholesterolemia, dyslipidemia, osteoarthritis, or gallstones, comprising administering a CG7956 nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide encoded thereby to a patient in need of such treatment, alleviation and/or prevention.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a vertebrate or insect CG7956 nucleic acid.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of

- (a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a sac domain containing inositol phosphatase 2 (sac2);
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule CG7956;
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the nucleic acid sequences as defined in (a) or (b);

- (d) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes at 50°C in a solution containing 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS to the nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 34 and/or a nucleic acid molecule which is complementary thereto;
 - (e) a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide which is at least 85% identical to the human protein sac domain containing inositol phosphatase 2 (sac2).
37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide is 90% to 99.6% identical to the human protein sac domain containing inositol phosphatase 2 (sac2).
38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule, particularly a cDNA or a genomic DNA.
39. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide contributing to regulating the energy homeostasis and/or the metabolism of triglycerides.
40. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a recombinant nucleic acid molecule.
41. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a vector.

42. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.
43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said recombinant polypeptide is a fusion polypeptide.
44. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from hybridization probes, primers and anti-sense oligonucleotides.
45. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein a CG7956 nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide encoded thereby is administered together with acceptable carriers, diluents and/or additives as a diagnostic composition.
46. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein a CG7956 nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide encoded thereby is administered together with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and/or additives as a therapeutic composition.
47. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein said vertebrate CG7956 encodes a human protein sac domain containing inositol phosphatase-2 (sac2) and/or a nucleic molecule which is complementary thereto.

48. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

49. (New) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment, alleviation and/or prevention of metabolic diseases or dysfunctions, including metabolic syndrome, obesity, and/or diabetes, as well as related disorders such as eating disorder, cachexia, hypertension, coronary heart disease, hypercholesterolemia, dyslipidemia, osteoarthritis, or gallstones comprising

- identifying a (poly)peptide involved in the regulation of energy homeostasis and/or metabolism of triglycerides in a mammal by contacting a collection of (poly)peptides with a CG7956 polypeptide under conditions that allow binding of said (poly) peptides;
- removing any (poly)peptides which do not bind;
- identifying any (poly)peptides that bind to said CG7956 polypeptide, and combining any identified (poly)peptides with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and/or additives to prepare a pharmaceutical composition.

50. (New) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment, alleviation and/or prevention of metabolic diseases or dysfunctions, including metabolic syndrome, obesity, and/or diabetes, as well as related disorders such as eating disorder, cachexia, hypertension, coronary heart disease, hypercholesterolemia, dyslipidemia, osteoarthritis, or gallstones comprising

- A) identifying an agent which modulates/effects the interaction of a CG7956

polypeptide with a binding target, comprising the steps of

a) incubating a mixture comprising

i) a CG7956 polypeptide,

ii) a binding target/agent of said polypeptide and

iii) a candidate agent

under conditions whereby said polypeptide specifically binds to said binding target/agent at a reference affinity;

b) detecting the binding affinity of said polypeptide to said binding target to determine an affinity for the candidate agent; and

c) determining a difference between affinity for the candidate agent and the binding target/agent affinity in order to identify an agent which modulates/effects the interaction of said CG7956 polypeptide with a binding target, and

B) combining any identified agent with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and/or additives to prepare a pharmaceutical composition.

51. (New) A composition comprising a CG7956 nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide encoded thereby together with acceptable carriers, diluents and/or additives.

52. (New) The composition according to claim 51, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a vertebrate or insect CG7956 nucleic acid.

53. (New) composition according to claim 51, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of

- a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a sac domain containing inositol phosphatase 2 (sac2);
- b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule CG7956;
- c) a nucleic acid molecule degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the nucleic acid sequences as defined in (a) or (b);
- d) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes at 50°C in a solution containing 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS to the nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 50 and/or a nucleic acid molecule which is complementary thereto; and
- e) a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide which is at least 85% identical to the human protein sac domain containing inositol phosphatase 2 (sac2).

54. (New) The composition according to claim 53, wherein said nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide is 90% to 99.6% identical to the human protein sac domain containing inositol phosphatase 2 (sac2).

55. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule, particularly a cDNA or a genomic DNA.

56. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide contributing to regulating the energy homeostasis and/or the metabolism of triglycerides.

57. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a recombinant nucleic acid molecule.

58. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a vector.

59. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein the polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.

60. (New) The composition of claim 59, wherein said recombinant polypeptide is a fusion polypeptide.

61. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from hybridization probes, primers and anti-sense oligonucleotides.

62. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein said carriers, diluents and/or additives are suitable for a diagnostic composition.

63. (New) The composition of claim 51, wherein said carriers, diluents and/or additives are suitable for a therapeutic composition.

64. (New) The composition according to claim 58, wherein said vector is an expression vector.